

Message Text

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PAGE 01 ISLAMA 08238 090858Z

17
ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 AF-08 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07

L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06

IO-13 OMB-01 SAM-01 EB-07 ACDA-07 AID-05 /099 W
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R 090520Z AUG 76
FM AMEMBASSY ISLAMABAD
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7030
INFO AMEMBASSY NOUAKCHOTT
AMEMBASSY COLOMBO
AMEMBASSY ALGIERS
AMEMBASSY KABUL
AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI
AMEMBASSY RABAT

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E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: PFOR, PK, MR
SUBJECT: MAURITANIAN PRESIDENT VISITS PAKISTAN

1. MAURITANIAN PRESIDENT MOKTAR OULD DADDAH ARRIVED IN RAWALPINDI AUGUST 6 TO BEGIN HIS SECOND VISIT TO PAKISTAN IN TWO AND A HALF YEARS. DADDAH ATTENDED THE ISLAMIC SUMMIT CONFERENCE IN LAHORE IN FEBRUARY 1974 AND BHUTTO HAD VISITED MAURITANIA IN 1972. DADDAH RECEIVED RED-CARPET TREATMENT, WAS GREETED BY BOTH PRESIDENT AND THE PM AND RECEIVED A 21 GUN SALUTE AND A GUARD OF HONOR. ARRIVAL CEREMONY RECEIVED EXTENSIVE PRESS, RADIO AND TV COVERAGE AUGUST 7.

2. WITHOUT ANY SHARED GEOPOLITICAL INTERESTS, WITH TRADE AT A MINIMUM (PAK EXPORTS TO MAURITANIA ARE ABOUT \$1 MILLION WITH NEGLIGIBLE IMPORTS FROM MAURITANIA), AND WITH NEITHER HAVING BIG POWER PRETENSIONS, ON THE SURFACE THE GREETING EXTENDED TO DADDAH WOULD SEEM OUT
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PAGE 02 ISLAMA 08238 090858Z

OF KEEPING WITH THE RELATIVE UNIMPORTANCE OF PAK/

MAURITANIAN BILATERAL RELATIONS. DADDAH'S VISIT IS IMPORTANT, HOWEVER, AND THE GOP IS GIVING HIM EXCEPTIONAL HOSPITALITY AND TREATMENT, SINCE PAK/MAURITANIAN RELATIONS EXEMPLIFY THE BENEFITS PAKISTAN RECEIVES FROM BEING A MEMBER IN GOOD STANDING OF THE ISLAMIC WORLD.

3. MAURITANIA HAS CONSISTENTLY SUPPORTED PAKISTAN'S POSITIONS ON ISSUES IMPORTANT TO ISLAMABAD. MAURITANIA STRONGLY BACKED PAKISTAN DURING THE 1971 WAR. IT SUPPORTED PAKISTAN'S DEMAND FOR NUCLEAR GUARANTEES AT THE ISLAMIC FOREIGN MINISTERS CONFERENCE IN KUALA LUMPUR IN 1974. IT ALSO SUPPORTS PAKISTAN'S PROPOSAL FOR A NUCLEAR-FREE ZONE IN SOUTH ASIA AND HAS ALWAYS BACKED THE GOP POSITION ON KASHMIR.

4. BHUTTO HAS NOT BEEN AS FORTHCOMING IN MEETING NOUAKCHATT'S REQUESTS FOR SUPPORT ON ISSUES IMPORTANT TO THE GOM. A SPECIAL ENVOY VISITED PAKISTAN IN FEBRUARY OF THIS YEAR WITH A MESSAGE FROM PRESIDENT DADDAH ON THE SAHARA. THE GOP MERELY REITERATED ITS "OFFICIAL POLICY OF NON-INVOLVEMENT IN INTER-ARAB DISPUTES." PAKISTAN DID GIVE MAURITANIA \$25 THOUSAND IN DROUGHT RELIEF IN 1974 AND HAS ALSO DONATED COPIES OF THE KORAN TO THE GOM.

5. WE ASSUME THE SAHARA ISSUE WILL BE DISCUSSED DURING THE BHUTTO/DADDAH MEETINGS, AND ALSO BELIEVE THAT BHUTTO WILL BRIEF DADDAH ON GOP VIEWS ON THE UPCOMING NAC. THE GOP, BARRED FROM MEMBERSHIP IN THE NON-ALIGNED, WILL DO ALL IT CAN TO ENSURE THAT ITS MUSLIM BROTHERS LOOK AFTER ITS INTERESTS DURING THE COLOMBO MEETING.

6. DURING HIS VISIT, DADDAH WILL VISIT THE TAXILA HEAVY MACHINERY COMPLEX, WILL FLY TO KARACHI FOR A ONE-DAY VISIT AND WILL ALSO GO TO LAHORE. (THE MFA IS ENGAGED IN AN INTRICATE AND DELICATE MINUTE TRYING TO HANDLE BOTH SECRETARY KISSINGER'S VISIT AND DADDAH'S WITHOUT AN OVERABUNDANCE OF CHAOS.) ON AUGUST 10, DADDAH WILL RETURN TO ISLAMABAD, THEN DRIVE TO THE HILL RESORT OF MURREE FOR A PRIVATE STAY OF UNDETERMINED DURATION. LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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PAGE 03 ISLAMA 08238 090858Z

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